

Minutes

**African American Heritage Commission
of Asheville and Buncombe County
March 12, 2015
1st Floor Conference Room, City Hall**

Members Present: Isaac Coleman, Sasha Mitchell, Phyllis Utley, Marvin Chambers, Viola Spells

Members Absent: DeWayne Barton, Angel Redmond, Johnnie Grant

Council Liaison: Chris Pelly

Guests: Beth Walton

Staff: Alex Carmichael

Chairperson Mitchell called the meeting to order at 11:42 AM.

1. **Approval of the February Minutes:** Commission member Isaac Coleman motioned to approve the February minutes. Commission member Marvin Chambers seconded. The motion passed with all in favor.
2. **New Business:**
 - a. **Vote for New Commission Member**

Applicants included: Mychal Bacoate, Willie Cameron, Jr., Tiffany De'Bellott, Kelly Goings, Jesse E. Junior, Georgia Shannon, Damita Jo Wilder, Alberta Williams, and Daniel Young. Four of the six Commission members appointed by the City or the County who were eligible to vote to fill the remaining seat were present. Marvin Chambers voted for Damita Jo Wilder. Isaac Coleman, Sasha Mitchell, and Viola Spells voted for Kelly Goings. Kelly Goings was appointed to fill the remaining seat by a three to one vote.
 - b. **Finalize Date for March AAHC Event**

Spring break begins March 30th and ends on April 3rd (Good Friday). The event will focus on the family histories of specific individuals. The Commission discussed that the event does not have to appeal to everyone in the community and that the first event should target adults. Sasha Mitchell stated that the Y.M.I. offered space for the event. The Commission set Thursday, April 2nd as the event date.

c. Prepare Program for March AAHC Event

It was decided that the name of the event would be “African American History 365.” The Commission discussed putting together a survey to collect the stories of people who contributed to the community. The Commission discussed an agenda, press release, and a program to publish and distribute. Commission members will distribute information at the March 26th “Stand Against Racism” event at AB Tech.

Marvin Chambers asked when the Commission had to report to Council. Councilman Chris Pelly reported that the Council was aware of all the changes on the Commission and that there was flexibility. He also recommended that the Commission work with the City’s Community Relations staff to create a press release.

d. Discuss Upcoming Programs for Community Engagement

The Commission discussed ideas for additional programming. Isaac Coleman suggested holding “listening” events to ask the community what it thinks the work of the Commission should be. Phyllis Utley suggested showing the film “Hidden Colors.” Sasha Mitchell suggested a seed collection and community garden, possibly in the Pisgah View community. Viola Spells suggested children’s story telling events.

5. Public Comment

The meeting adjourned at 12:13 PM.